

Gina Mouser

From: Mike Burke
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2008 12:39 PM
To: Joseph Moore; 'Vernon Crawford'
Subject: FW: November Finance Council

Attachments: FS 1011.60 and Atty Gen Opinion.pdf



FS 1011.60 and
Atty Gen Opinio...

Joe/Vern,

FYI - I requested that the Finance Council take up the school start date legislation at their November meeting in Altamonte Springs (see below).
Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Burke
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2008 1:35 PM
To: 'Jim McCall'; Marcelle Richardson; Judy Preston; Joy Frank; Barbara Linker; Tim McGonegal; Julee Tinsler; Linda.Champion@fldoe.org; Norman Holley; George Latimer; Henry Boekhoff; Greg Harrelson; Debbie Bruggink; Mike Degutis; Terry St. Cyr; Lee Legutko; Susan Legutko; Nancy Gress; Theresa Boston-Ellis; Susan Farmer; Rick Collins; Olga Swinson; Michael Yanosik; Rosh Khatri; gretchen.saunders@sdhc.k12.fl.us; Conley Weiss; Vicki Music; Randy Beach
Cc: Leanne Evans
Subject: RE: November Finance Council

Jim,
I'd like to suggest we discuss the "Save Our Summers" legislation [FS 1001.42 (4)(f)], the impact on payroll for FY2010, and potential support for an amendment to the current legislation. Labor Day jumps from September 1 in 2008 to September 7 in 2009. As a result, the start of school will also shift forward one week creating a gap in pay for 26 pay teachers. This has been problematic as our teachers expect to be paid every two weeks regardless of their start date.

I would like the Finance Council to consider supporting a position to amend this legislation by tying the start of school to a fixed date rather than Labor Day. For example, replace Labor Day with September 1. The current legislation is shown below:

1001.42 (4)(f) Opening and closing of schools; fixing uniform date.--Adopt policies for the opening and closing of schools and fix uniform dates; however, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, the opening date for schools in the district may not be earlier than 14 days before Labor Day each year.

Of course, Labor Day cannot shift forward beyond September 7. But if districts continue to start school as soon as the current statute permits, the payroll gap problem will reoccur in the future (2015 to be exact).

As an FYI, I've attached the Florida Statute and Attorney General's opinion that precludes school districts from paying employees in advance of services being rendered. We plan to stand behind the law and communicate the gap in pay to affected employees early and often. But this legislation creates a lot of animosity and problems that could be easily avoided with a slight legislative amendment.

Thanks for your consideration. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the November meeting due to a schedule conflict, but Leanne Evans will be representing Palm Beach in my absence.

Thank you,
Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim McCall [mailto:MccallJ@walton.k12.fl.us]

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 8:52 AM

To: Marcelle Richardson; Judy Preston; Joy Frank; Barbara Linker; Tim McGonegal; Julee Tinsler; Linda.Champion@fldoe.org; Norman Holley; George Latimer; Henry Boekhoff; Greg Harrelson; Debbie Bruggink; Mike Degutis; Terry St. Cyr; Lee Legutko; Susan Legutko; Nancy Gress; Theresa Boston-Ellis; Susan Farmer; Rick Collins; Mike Burke; Olga Swinson; Michael Yanosik; Rosh Khatri; gretchen.saunders@sdhc.k12.fl.us; Conley Weiss; Vicki Music; Randy Beach

Subject: November Finance Council

Good morning!

The November Finance Council meeting is set for Tuesday, November 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Altamonte Springs Hilton. If you've not made your reservation yet, their number is 407-830-1985. Other info concerning the conference can be found on the FSFOA website.

Michael Yanosik, President of the Florida School Finance Officers Association, is once again treating us royally. There will be a full breakfast from 8:00 until 9:00 featuring scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon, fruit, rolls, and beverages. We will also have a plated lunch. So let me begin by expressing appreciation to Mike and FSFOA for the first class treatment. Please convey your appreciation to him also.

Please email me in the next week with agenda topics. At a minimum, I know we'll want to discuss:

- Funding for next year/Commissioner Smith's position paper on funding

- The November constitutional amendments that were axed - resurrection?

- Information from Linda Champion/DOE

- Balancing budgets recap - what did everyone end up doing (as opposed to what they had planned)? In other words, what didn't fly?

- Implement goals and objectives - possible subcommittees

- Concurrency Infrastructure costs - Hillsborough's success

- Succession Planning Subcommittee

- Class Size Reduction - penalties for this year, plans for next year

I will try to publish a final agenda about a week before the meeting. In the meantime, please contribute your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Jim McCall
Chairman